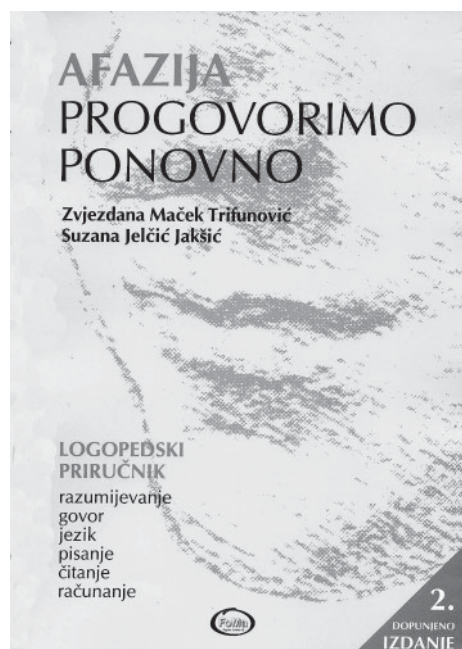


BOOK REVIEW



APHASIA – LET US SPEAK AGAIN
(AFAZIJA – PROGOVORIMO PONOVRNO,
by Zvezdana Maček-Trifunović and Suzana Jelčić-
Jakšić. 2nd amended edition; FoMa, Zagreb, 2006;
152 pages.
ISBN: 953-6878-13-5

It is estimated that approximately one-third of stroke patients have a mild or no neurological deficit, one-third suffer from a severe neurological deficit, and one-third die from stroke sequels. Although stroke is the leading cause of disability in modern society, its consequences can be alleviated or even eliminated in case of mild stroke. The patient's family and his social environment are frequently embarrassed by the new situation and they want to establish contact with the affected individual.

In their daily work, speech therapists have little textual and pictorial material available for work with adults, especially those faced with a reduced ability of commu-

nication due to some cerebrovascular disease. Therefore, there is constant need of quality textual material as an aid to speech therapist's work with patients suffering from speech disturbances.

This is the second, amended edition of the speech therapy handbook, which has been printed after the first edition had been very well accepted, in order to fill the gap in the respective literature available on the market. The first edition of the book received the Silver Oil-Lamp award for promotion of health and health education, by Andrija Štampar School of Public Health, School of Medicine, University of Zagreb, and Institute of Health Technology.

The book has six chapters, each of them dealing with a specific field of speech-language communication, with tasks graded from simple toward complex ones. In the introduction, the causes and classification of aphasia are discussed. In chapter 1, understanding simple and complex activities and abstract notions, and orientation all over one's own body, on the paper, in time and in space are presented. Chapter 2 is related to speech, e.g., stimulating utterance and articulation, speech memorizing and spontaneous speech. Third chapter is dedicated to language in speech, e.g., analysis and synthesis of word and sentence, syntax and grammar, vocabulary enrichment, and use of speech. Chapter 4 deals with writing exercises, including fine manual motoricity exercises, tracing, transcribing, dictation exercise and spontaneous writing. Chapter 5 is related to reading, e.g., letter recognizing, global reading, and text understanding. Sixth chapter deals with calculation exercises. The book ends with a literary appendix, i.e. texts that are interesting in contents and acceptable in style to aphasic patients, therefore being recommended for work with individuals suffering from a mild form of aphasia.

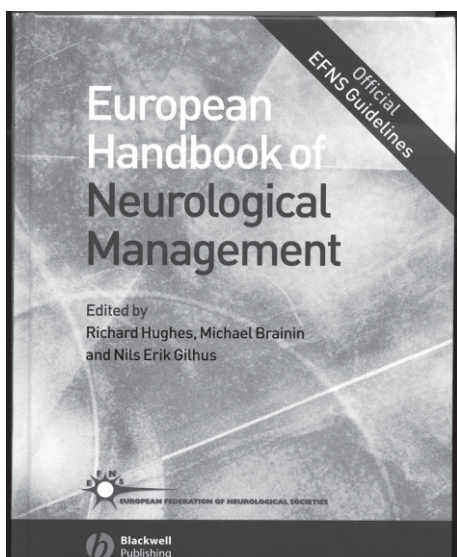
When the speech therapist has established the type and grade of speech-language communication deficit, the recommended tasks from the handbook can be used. The tasks are set to be responded by mimic, gesture, movement, word or full sentence, depending on the

particular patient's communication abilities. The patient's educational level and occupation should be taken in consideration on performing the reading, writing and calculation exercises.

The authors have invested great efforts in preparing this book as the second edition of the first Croatian handbook in speech therapy. It should be noted that the handbook has been designed and published to facilitate rehabilitation to all people affected with aphasia who need professional help. The book is primarily intended for

speech therapists, however, physicians, psychologists, educators, physiotherapists, family members of aphasic patients, and aphasic patients depending on individual abilities may find it highly useful. For all these reasons, there is no doubt that this second edition of the book will also be widely accepted like the first one, as an aid to speech therapists and other professionals in their daily work with patients suffering from speech problems.

Jelena Bošnjak



**EUROPEAN HANDBOOK OF
NEUROLOGICAL MANAGEMENT –
OFFICIAL EFNS GUIDELINES,**
*by Richard Hughes, Michael Brainin and Nils Erik
Gilhus, editors; 1st edition, Blackwell Publishing
Ltd., Oxford, United Kingdom, 2006; 623 pages
ISBN-13: 978-1-4051-3050-9
ISBN-10: 1-4051-3050-4*

In recent time, evidence based medicine (EBM) is considered a *conditio sine qua non* in medical practice worldwide. EBM is looked upon as a new paradigm, replacing the traditional medical paradigm, which was based on authority. It can be said that EBM applies the scientific method to medical practice. EBM is the con-

scientious, explicit and judicious use of current best evidence in making decisions between various methods of treatment in care of individual patients. EBM is dependent on the use of results of randomized controlled trials, as well as systematic reviews and meta-analysis of a series of trials, although it is not restricted only to these.

There is also an emphasis on the dissemination of EBM information, so that the evidence can reach clinical practice. The European Federation of Neurological Societies (EFNS) has recognized the demands for the development of European standards for the management and treatment of neurological diseases, and has since 1997 published numerous guidelines. The aim of these, and any other guidelines is to provide guidance for clinical neurologists, other health care professionals and health care providers about important aspects of the management of neurological diseases.

This handbook represents the peer-reviewed guidelines for the treatment and management of neurological diseases, based wherever possible on evidence and where not on consensus of a range of experts drawn from different European countries.

However, often the evidence on which to base recommendations has been inadequate and task forces have necessarily to make up their minds on the basis of limited evidence. The handbook therefore goes beyond the evidence based guidelines preferred by some authorities and extends to offering advice in evidence-free areas.

Each chapter is based on the consensus of neurologists from several different European centers. The authors were also linked up with other European organizations (e.g., European Stroke Initiative, The Movement Disorder Society – European Section, European Amyo-

trophic Lateral Sclerosis Consortium, International Peripheral Nerve Society, etc.).

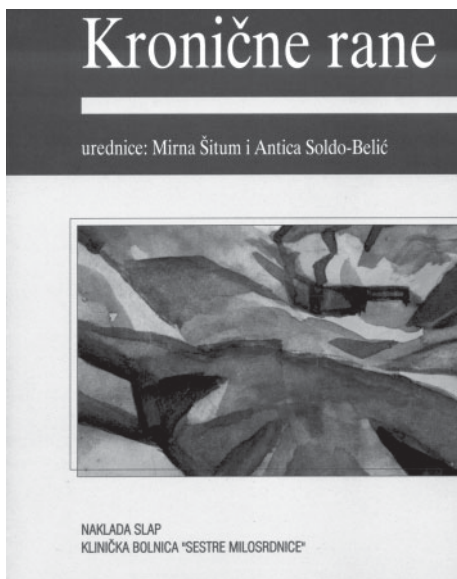
This handbook consists of 623 pages, with about 80 tables and 20 figures included. It is divided into eight chapters: 1 – Introduction, 2 – Investigation, 3 – Major Neurological Diseases, 4 – Neuromuscular Diseases, 5 – Infections, 6 – Neurological Problems, 7 – Sleep Disorders, and 8 – Rehabilitation.

The Investigation chapter includes guidelines for cerebrospinal fluid analysis, imaging, diagnostic antibodies and skin biopsy. The Major Neurological Diseases chapter includes guidelines for stroke, migraine, Parkinson's disease, dystonia, mild traumatic brain injury and Alzheimer's disease. The Neuromuscular Diseases chapter includes guidelines for motor neuron disease, inflammatory neuropathy, limb girdle muscular dystrophy and myasthenia gravis. The authors have decided to leave guidelines for diabetic and other neuropathies and myopathies for future editions. The Infections chapter covers HIV infections and encephalitis but not meningitis. Specific neurological problems include the treatment of neuropathic pain, acute relapses of multiple sclerosis and status epilepticus, alcohol related seizures, brain metastases, paraneoplastic syndromes, nystagmus and

oscillopsia, orthostatic hypotension, cerebral venous and sinus thrombosis, cerebral vasculitis, neurological problems in liver transplantation, and fatty acid and mitochondrial disorders. There are three guidelines on sleep disorders: narcolepsy, sleep disorders in neurological disease, and restless legs syndrome and periodic limb movement disorder. The handbook concludes appropriately with a section on cognitive rehabilitation.

This handbook provides valuable information about treatment of various neurological disorders in accordance with the best EBM practice. Collecting all EFNS guidelines in one handbook provides readers with an invaluable EBM tool, and enables dissemination of EBM principles in the field of clinical neurology. However, this handbook also illustrates the need of more and better research in clinical neurology. Well-controlled studies with sufficient quality, size and follow up time are needed for many drug and non-drug treatments and procedures currently used in everyday neurology. We hope that this handbook, besides providing readers with guidelines for treatment of many neurological disorders, will also encourage readers to provide results from high quality clinical trials that will enable current improvement of present guidelines.

Zlatko Trkanjec



CHRONIC WOUNDS TEXTBOOK
(KRONIČNE RANE) by *Mirna Šitum and*
Antica Soldo-Belić, editors; Naklada Slap-Sestre
milosrdnice University Hospital, Zagreb, 2006;
 226 pages
 ISBN 978-953-191-340-9

While preparing the Chronic Wounds Scientific Symposium, members of the Organizing Committee recog-

nized the need to publish a textbook that would deal with the complex area of chronic wounds in a scientific and professional way. The aim of this textbook was to encompass modern concepts on the etiology of chronic wounds and to give an overview of the most commonly used therapies and promising new treatment modalities. The textbook consists of 25 chapters, covering every aspect of the most common types of chronic wounds, from pathophysiological processes and different treatment methods through differential diagnosis and psychological issues in the field. Each chapter has been written by an expert in the specific sub-field, which makes this textbook a complete review of the current theoretical and clinical state-of-the-art about chronic wounds.

Chronic wounds are an important health problem, with a significant psychological, social and economic burden. Physicians of different specializations deal with chronic wounds in their everyday practice. Constant progress in research in the field results in the development of new theories and treatment modalities, which makes the choice of appropriate treatment sometimes hard and confusing. To the best of our knowledge, textbooks in the field are rare. We do hope therefore that this one will give valuable contribution to the understanding of the etiology of chronic wounds, help physicians make therapeutic decisions, and finally help reduce the patients' pain and suffering.

Maja Vurnek

NEWS

Tenth Congress of the European Federation of Neurological Societies

Glasgow, United Kingdom, September 2-5, 2006

The Tenth Congress of the European Federation of Neurological Societies (EFNS) took place in Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre in Glasgow, UK, September 2-5, 2006. EFNS Congresses are held yearly in a European city with the purpose of presenting advantages in scientific research and furthering collaboration between neurologists across Europe. The scientific program was complemented by a social program to ensure a memorable experience for all the participants. About 4500 participants attended and participated in the work of this Congress.

The Congress comprised of the following: main topics, short communications, satellite symposia, special sessions, focused workshop, tournament for young neurologists, teaching courses, scientist panel sessions, and business meetings. The main topics of the Congress were: stroke prevention, update on migraine mechanisms and treatment, epilepsy and genetics, mononeuropathies – clinical findings and ancillary examinations, movement disorders, inflammatory myopathies, gait disorders of the elderly, infections, and brain tumors.

The Congress started with the opening ceremony, with the welcoming words by the EFNS president and special lecture by Professor Graham Teasdale entitled

Glasgow Coma Scale, followed by performance of the Strathclyde Police Pipe Band and Welcome reception at the Glasgow Science Centre. A special farewell party was organized on the last evening of the Congress at The Transport Museum and Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum.

Glasgow is a city with European feel, as Scottish people would say: “You have to remind yourself you are in Scotland”. Charles Rennie Macintosh, a famous architect, designer and artist who designed a number of public buildings and private houses between 1890 and 1912, made the “Glasgow style”. His massive influence can be seen all over the city. His masterpiece is Glasgow School of Art, one of the most important buildings of the Modern movement in Europe. The city’s surrounding countryside offers beautiful highland landscapes.

Croatia was represented by more than 30 participants with more than 30 posters presented in poster sessions, 15 of them from the University Department of Neurology, Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital in Zagreb. Professor Vida Demarin presented a very interesting lecture Hormone Therapy and the Risk of Stroke at the focused Stroke in Women workshop, chaired by Professor Anna Czlonkowska and Professor Vida Demarin. In the History of Neurology session, Tomislav Breitenfeld, MD, presented a lecture Mozart’s Neurological Disorders – on the 250th Anniversary of His Death, which attracted considerable audience.

Jelena Bošnjak

The 50th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency

Vienna, Austria, September 18-20, 2006

The 50th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was held in Vienna on September 18-20, 2006. The Conference gathered all IAEA member countries, 140 in total, along with representatives of various United Nations (UN) organizations and other international governmental and non-governmental organizations, 35 in total, engaged in nuclear energy related activities. The main role of IAEA is to contribute to the safe use of nuclear energy for peacetime purposes, through the development of technology, science and economy all over the world. This jubilee, fiftieth conference was at the same time elective for the Council of Governors, the IAEA supreme managing body that determines the activities and programs to be implemented as well as the distribution of IAEA budget of some 280 million EUR for 2006. Eighteen members of the Croatian delegation, headed by Ms. Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, Foreign Minister, took part in the work of the Conference. This year, a Croatian representative, Mr. Mario Horvatić, was elected member of the Coun-

cil of Governors for the first time.

During the session held on September 20, 2006, Ana Maria Cetto, IAEA Deputy Director General (Mohamed El Baradei), organized an exclusive reception for the narrower delegation of Croatian representatives. Academician Zvonko Kusić, secretary of the Department of Medical Sciences, Croatian Academy of Science and Arts, member of the narrower delegation, presented new projects in the field of medicine, within the frame of collaboration between Croatia and IAEA, that have received excellent reviews. The reception was attended by Vladimir Matek, Croatian ambassador to IAEA; Matijaž Prah, Director, National Agency for Nuclear Safety; Mario Horvatić, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration; Branko Zebić, Consul General at UN Mission in Vienna; Dragan Kubelka, Director, National Institute of Radiation Protection; and Nevenka Novosel, Assistant Director, National Agency of Nuclear Safety. The most significant project in the field of medicine in Croatia for the 2007-2010 period is the one entitled Introduction of Positron Emission Tomography (PET) in Croatia, a joint venture to be carried out by University Department of Oncology and Nuclear Medicine, Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital and University Hospital for Tumors from Zagreb, which has been approved by IAEA and passed the first three steps of evaluation phases, while the final step of the detailed project plan approval has just been under way. On that occasion, academician Kusić noted the long-standing successful collaboration and expressed due appreciation of the IAEA support for joint projects in the introduction of modern technologies in the field of nuclear medicine and radiotherapy. Since Ms. Cetto also holds the position of Director of IEAE Department of Technical Cooperation, which issues approvals and collaborates directly in the implementation of new projects, this meeting was of utmost importance for the promotion of the Croatian medicine and science as well as for the verification of further collaboration.

Antonija Balenović



First Scientific Symposium of the Croatian Thyroid Society – Rational Diagnosis of Thyroid Diseases

Zagreb, Croatia, June 29, 2006

The First Scientific Symposium on the Rational Diagnosis of Thyroid Diseases, organized by the Croatian Thyroid Society and Croatian Academy of Science and Arts, was held on June 29, 2006 at the Croatian Academy of Science and Arts Hall. The Symposium was dedicated to the development of algorithms for rational diagnosis of thyroid diseases.

The Symposium was attended by 90 participants of various medical specialties in the fields of nuclear medicine, internal medicine – endocrinology, ENT, oncology, pediatrics, pathology, cytology, dermatology and venereology, molecular biology, medical biochemistry, and public health from all over Croatia. Thus, the meeting fulfilled one of the Society's goals of gathering professionals from the whole country who are dealing with various aspects of the diagnosis, management, follow up and research of thyroid diseases.

The Symposium Presidency consisted of renowned Croatian experts: academician Zvonko Kusić, President of the Croatian Thyroid Society and President of the Symposium Organizing Committee; Professor Miljenko Solter, MD, PhD, Head, Department of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolic Diseases, Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital; Professor Damir Dodig, MD, PhD, Head, University Department of Nuclear Medicine and Radiation Protection, Zagreb University Hospital Center; and Assist. Professor Drago Prgomet, MD, PhD, Head, University Department of ENT, Zagreb University Hospital Center.

The Symposium was attended by many other distinguished persons, academicians, presidents of related societies of the Croatian Medical Association, high-ranking officials in the fields of health care and science. Among others, the audience was addressed by Head Doctor Hrvoje Šobat, President of the Croatian Medical Association, describing the Croatian Thyroid Society as the youngest and most active society of the Association.

In his introductory lecture, academician Kusić emphasized that thyroid diseases were among the most common disorders in humans, women in particular, frequently influencing other organ systems. Thyroid nodes are present in some 50%, occult thyroid carcinoma in 10%-20%, and impaired thyroid function in 2%-10% of individuals. Patient management is characterized by a

multidisciplinary approach, with an array of procedures indicated by physicians of various specialties used for diagnostic purpose. Yet, there are a number of contradictory opinions in the diagnosis of thyroid diseases, e.g., indication of ultrasound guided cytologic biopsy, unnecessary determination of too many hormones, or uncritical use of ultrasonography. The development of science and technology has enabled detection of subclinical (asymptomatic) forms of the disease, where consensus about the need of treatment (or even determination) has not yet been reached. Health care system is frequently and unnecessarily burdened merely due to uneconomical approach, thus posing the need of scientifically and professionally based guidelines and algorithms that would facilitate the work and ensure faster and more accurate diagnosis of thyroid diseases, and consequently optimal patient care.

After the lectures, academician Zvonko Kusić presented the proposal of guidelines for the rational diagnosis of the most common thyroid diseases and impairments, on behalf of the Working Group consisting of a number of renowned experts in the field of thyroid gland: Zvonko Kusić, Miljenko Solter, Damir Dodig, Danijel Došen, Zdenka Bence-Žigman, Mladen Belicza, Hrvoje Čupić, Boris Bonefačić, Velimir Božikov, Maja Franceschi, Mira Halbauer, Ivan Karner, Anka Knežević-Obad, Mirko Koršić, Ljerka Lukinac, Neven Mateša, Ivan Mihaljević, Marijan Petek, Vlado Petric, Drago Prgomet, Ante Punda, Sanja Rončević, Vladimir Sarnavka, Juraj Smoje, Aleksandar Smokvina, Ante Staničić, Franjo Škreb, Hrvojka Tomić-Brzac, Milan Vrkljan and Josip Žmire.

Algorithms were presented for the rational diagnosis of thyrotoxicosis, hypothyroidism, goiter, thyroid



nodes, thyroid disease in pregnancy and congenital hypothyroidism, as well as for screening for thyroid diseases of pregnant women and women aged over 50. These algorithms are published on the Society web site (<http://www.kbsm.hr/hdzs/>), allowing the readers to respond with well-argued criticism and suggestions related to the algorithms proposed. The algorithms have also appeared in the newsletter of the Croatian Thyroid So-

ciety, No. 2, the whole issue being dedicated to this important symposium.

The final, consensus version of the algorithms will be adopted in the near future and published on the Society web site as well as in *Liječnički vjesnik*, Croatian Thyroid Society newsletter, and as a separate booklet.

Jure Murgić

Scientific Symposium on Chronic Wounds with International Participation

Zagreb, Croatia, November 24, 2006

The Scientific Symposium on Chronic Wounds was held on November 24, 2006, at Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital in Zagreb. The Symposium was organized by University Department of Dermatology and Venereology, and University Department of Surgery, under the auspices of Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital, Croatian Medical Association and Croatian Society of Phlebology.

The field of chronic wounds is less attractive but one of the most important and both psychosocially and economically demanding medical issues. Nonhealing chronic wounds are a challenge to the patient, the health care professional, and the health care system. They significantly impair the quality of life for millions of people around the world. Intensive treatment is required, imposing an enormous burden on the society in terms of lost productivity and health care funds. Therefore, studies of the chronic wound healing are of paramount importance.

The Symposium was opened by Professor Mirna Šitum, president of the Organizing Committee and head

of the University Department of Dermatology and Venereology; Professor Mihael Škerlev, president of the Croatian Society of Dermatology; and Mario Zovak, MD, representative of the Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital management. Among honorable guests of the Symposium there were academician Zvonko Kusić and Head Doctor Jasna Lešić, president of the Croatian Society of Phlebology.

The aim of this Symposium was to present modern concepts on the etiology of chronic wounds and to give an overview of the current treatment options. Symposium lectures covered a wide spectrum of topics, from definitions of chronic wounds to novel treatment modalities, and were delivered by renowned experts in the field from Croatia and abroad. The meeting attracted a great number of specialists from different fields: dermatologists, surgeons, family physicians and microbiologists, all of whom showed great interest in the field and attended all lectures until the very end.

At the end of the Symposium, the organizers presented a textbook entitled *Chronic Wounds*, as the result of the Symposium. The presentation was attended by the publishers and authors of the textbook, ending with a nice cocktail party where all the participants shared their impressions of the day.

Maja Vurnek

Sestre milosrdnice



University Hospital

HISTORICAL REVIEW



Professor Jozo Budak, MD, PhD (April 6, 1902 – April 26, 1966) died forty years ago. He was the first Croatian specialist in physical medicine and rehabilitation. Professor Budak studied medicine in Graz, and earned his specialization in Vienna, Bad-Homburg, Frankfurt, Wiesbaden and Paris.

Having completed his medical studies, he came to our Hospital to volunteer at Department of Medicine at the beginning of the 1930s. Upon completing his residency at our Hospital, then in Germany and France, he returned to the Hospital to become the first specialist in physical therapy, balneology and climatology, then the name of this specialty, in 1939. He headed Division of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Department of Medicine. As early as 1941, he managed to turn the Division into the independent Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. During World War II, he was appointed lecturer at Zagreb School of Medicine and head of Department. He was thrown in jail for collaboration with the liberation movement, preventing him to deliver his university lectures. After the war, over some two decades, he developed rich and fruitful professional, scientific and organizational activities as the first genuine expert not only in Croatia but in the whole then Yugoslavia. Therefore, he was invited by the Montenegro Republic government to establish the Igalo resort. He used to travel abroad to acquire new experiences and ideas through study visits, conventions and congresses. He was very enthusiastic in adopting the great and

substantial concepts by Howard Rusk, the famous “father of rehabilitation medicine”, who held Professor Budak in high esteem, naming him one of the great leaders in rehabilitation worldwide¹.

In 1947, Professor Budak had established the first school of physical medicine, which was expanded with the addition of the department of work therapists and medical electronics specialists in 1957. In 1958, Professor Budak established the first Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation in Croatia, which he headed for life.

He was the first head of the then federative, i.e. Yugoslav Section for Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons, and head or member of many other boards dealing with the issues related to the disabled. He was continuously engaged in upgrading the rehabilitation of the disabled, advocating research studies of mental and physical health. In line with this, he founded the society entitled Long Active Life.

From 1948 until 1954, he published a number of experimental studies on the treatment of rheumatism, biology of disability, and on the use of electronics in physical medicine in particular. He founded the first electronic study room at Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation laboratory. He departed this life too early, having bequeathed his profession and society with the first true works in the field of physical medicine and rehabilitation in Croatia.

Tanja Sušec

Reference

1. SABOL-VIDEC R. Prof. dr. Jozo Budak (6. IV. 1902. – 26. IV. 1966.). Lijec Vjesn 1966;88:894-6.

INTERNET GUIDANCE

It is always a pleasure to present a Croatian portal that is easy and simple to use by all our users. This time, this applies to the HRČAK portal of scientific journals published in the Republic of Croatia. The creation of this portal was initiated by the Croatian Informatics and Documentation Society, and has been implemented in collaboration with SRCE University Computer Center and Ruđer Bošković Institute Library. In 2005, the project received financial support from the Ministry of Science. The main task of the project is to offer free access to all Croatian scientific and professional journals. The search is simple, according to author or field of science. HRČAK offers a free tool and help to all journal editorial boards to send their journal applications, thus increasing their impact and visibility. For the time being, 110 journals can be searched. Additional information on the portal can be found at:

<http://hrcak.srce.hr>

We have already presented the medlineplus.gov web sites of the National Library of Medicine from the United States (Acta Clin Croat 2000;39:197). Seven years ago, it provided an excellent basis for both professionals and nonprofessionals. These web sites were so designed to offer all necessary data for nonprofessionals, led by the motto that "good information is the best medicine". The medlineplus web sites have been constantly upgrading, and are currently cited and highly ranked in many renowned journals. The extensive sites on various diseases offer the patients all the information available on a particular disease. For example, diabetes mellitus is comprehensively presented through a journal, NIH MedlinePlus Magazine, which is available in both printed and online forms, with a series of high-quality papers on diabetes mellitus on its pages as well as through multimedia products of their Patient Education Institute producing interactive multimedia software for patient education.

<http://medlineplus.nlm.nih.gov/medline-plus/diabetes.htm>

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